



DATA SUPPRESSION GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC REPORTING OF THE NEVADA ACCOUNTABILITY PORTAL

The Nevada Department of Education (NDE) treats data confidentiality and the privacy of student educational records very seriously. NDE complies with all federal and state data standards and laws, including the [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#). NDE has adopted best practices and strategies to safeguard the privacy of personally identifiable information (PII) about its students. Disaggregated student data may not be published if the results would yield personally identifiable information about an individual student.

This document summarizes the different examples and descriptions of the methods used by the NDE to protect the student privacy in its public reporting while maintaining the data transparency.

WHEN DOES NDE REDACT DATA?

NDE redacts any data/information that, alone or in combination, is linked or linkable to a specific student that would allow a reasonable person in the school community, who does not have personal knowledge of the relevant circumstances, to identify the student with reasonable certainty. Examples of the data that is connected to student educational outcomes are such as but not limited to assessment results, graduation rates, dropout rates, retention rates, special population membership status and more.

EXCEPTION TO APPLYING DISCLOSURE AVOIDANCE TECHNIQUES

The only exception to applying disclosure avoidance techniques is to basic entity level enrollment counts (for example October student counts), including total enrollment and those broken down by race/ethnicity and gender. Besides this exception, under FERPA and other applicable federal and state privacy statutes and regulations, when publicly reporting or fulfilling data requests NDE



applies disclosure avoidance techniques to any student counts or percentages relating to student enrollment, characteristics, performance, outcomes etc.

WHAT METHODS DOES NDE USE?

The NDE has implemented a system that suppresses small cell values of less than 10 individual students, and also utilizes “top and bottom coding” in public reports. This document guides the reader through the logic of these methods.

Suppression

If any cell size with a student count is less than 10, the value is suppressed. Cells with a value of 0 are not suppressed. Totals are retained whenever is possible but still subject to suppression if needed. All student subgroups by which data are disaggregated (e.g., race, ethnicity, FRL, EL etc.) are presented in the report tables even if there are no data for categories.

Top and Bottom Coding

The NDE currently reports >95% for academic outcome percentages over 95% (top coding) and <5% for any percentages less than 5% (bottom coding). Academic outcome values less than 5% and greater than 95% are considered as extreme values.

FUTURE ENHANCEMENTS

It is our goal to implement complementary suppression. If a cell value is less than 10 and only one value is suppressed in a row or column, another value in that row or column needs to be suppressed. This is done to prevent anyone from reverse-engineering the data to get the suppressed values. This is referred to as complementary (or secondary) suppression which can be applied vertically or horizontally in a data table.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email adaminfo@doe.nv.gov.